

## Calendar Year 2010 Annual Report

### **I. Mission.**

The primary purpose of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) is to advise the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners on bicycle and pedestrian issues.

### **II. Executive Summary.**

Durham BPAC is fortunate to be served at this time by many members who have great energy and passion for bicycle and pedestrian issues. Over the course of 2010, the average attendance at the monthly meetings was 85 percent of the membership. Adding monthly subcommittee meetings, presence at events, annual planning retreat, email correspondence, etc., the commitment of the entire group was strong throughout the year. This collective dedication and energy is reflected in BPAC's accomplishments during 2010.

We want to remind the City and County leadership that bicycle and pedestrian issues can influence other local government goals, such as sustainability and energy savings, and raising and maintaining property values (for example, national studies show that homes near trails maintain excellent value over time). As you formulate plans for alternative transportation such as bus, commuter rail, and light rail, please remember that there are many citizens who are willing and able to walk and bike to bus and rail stops and commute to work by walking or cycling.

With the completion of the new R Kelly Bryant Jr. Bridge over the Durham Freeway and the Third Fork Creek Trail, and the upcoming work on the American Tobacco Trail and bridge over I-40, Durham is providing outstanding new facilities for recreation and alternative transportation. We look forward to staying engaged with City and County government in making Durham a friendlier place for people who want to walk and bike.

### **III. Structure of BPAC**

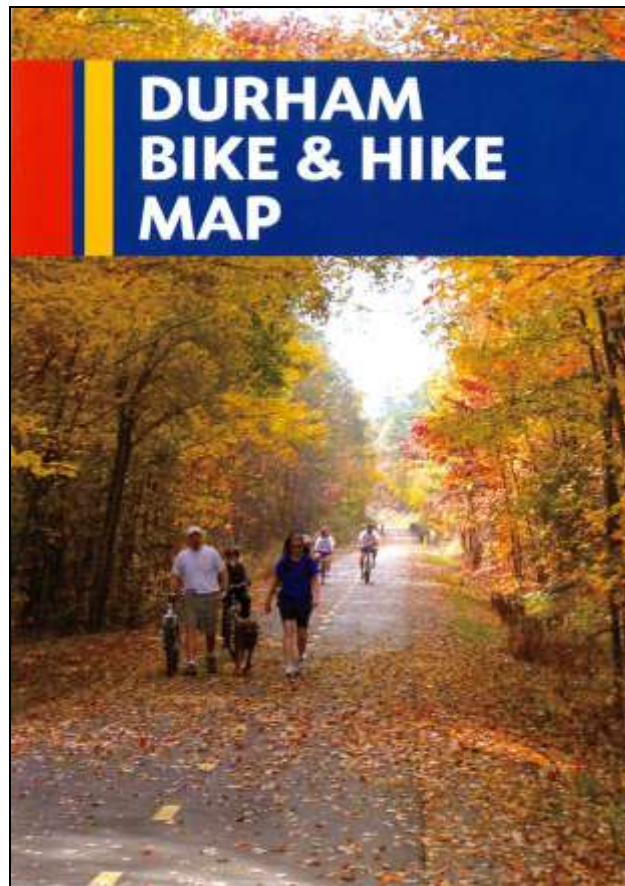
The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) was established in July of 2001. The BPAC Interlocal agreement was recently re-authorized by the Durham City Council and Board of County Commissioners. The agreement adds two new members to BPAC, representatives from Duke University and N.C. Central University. The agreement also creates liaisons to BPAC from the two elected boards.

With these new members, the Commission now consists of 14 appointed members from the City and County, and three members from existing City/County commissions – the Durham Open Space and Trails Commission, the Recreation Advisory Commission, and the Durham Planning Commission.

Alan Dippy served as Chair of BPAC in 2010. Jack Warman served as Vice-Chair until the end of his term in September, and Lars Trost served the remainder of the year as Vice-Chair. In December, Scott Carter and Ken Kaye were elected Chair and Vice-Chair.

BPAC has four committees: Development Review (chaired by Dan Clever in 2010), Pedestrian Plan Implementation (chaired by Greg Garneau in 2010), Bike Plan Implementation (chaired by Scott Carter in 2010) and Communications/Outreach (chaired by Ken Kaye in 2010). A Transportation Department staff person, Dale McKeel is assigned to work with the Commission.

Five new members joined BPAC in 2010 – Jade Brooks, Lou Goetz, Wendy Jacobs, Jonathon Leach, and Steven Lee.



*Durham Bike & Hike Map – Completed in 2010*

#### **IV. Presentations Made to BPAC**

- Jessalee Landfried, Clean Energy Durham (January 2010) – discussed the individualized marketing program that is seeking to reduce drive-alone trips and increase trips by transit, bicycle, walking and carpooling. She also discussed the vision for a street closure “ciclovia” event in Durham.

- Stephanie Loyka, Triangle Transit (April 2010) - discussed her work as an outreach coordinator promoting alternatives to the single occupant vehicle use to employers in Durham County, and how she could work more closely with BPAC on Bike Month and other events.
- Joe Carley, City-County Planning Department (April 2010) – discussed the draft UDO amendment for bicycle parking and alternative pedestrian plans.
- Joe Davis, Triangle Bike Path Initiative (June 2010) – shared his vision of adding bike lanes and roadway shoulders to connect the trails in the Triangle region, and discussed fundraising to support this effort by the DWM Foundation.
- Alan Wiggs, Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission (August 2010) – discussed the work of the Raleigh BPAC and desire to work with Durham’s BPAC.
- Phil Loziuk, Durham Transportation Department (September 2010) – discussed the plan to improve pedestrian safety on Club Boulevard through the construction of intersection curb extensions
- Bob Healy, New Hope Creek Corridor Advisory Committee (November 2010) – discussed the work of the committee in implementing the 1991 plan for the corridor and the committee’s interest in working with BPAC on trails in the corridor area.
- Carl Sundstrom, UNC Highway Safety Research Center (November 2010) – provided an update on the status of the NHTSA pedestrian safety education and enforcement project.
- Dale McKeel, Durham Transportation Department (November 2010) – provided an overview of the project design and schedule for the Old Durham-Chapel Hill Road bicycle and pedestrian improvement project.
- Brian Williams, Duke University Transportation Demand Management Coordinator (December 2010) – discussed his work to make the Duke University campus more bicycle friendly and sought comment from BPAC.

## **V. BPAC Accomplishment and Activities**

### ***A. Development Review Activities.***

- Reviewed and commented on over 150 site plans and re-reviews and more than 20 development plans.
- Reviewed and commented on the Ninth Street Design District guidelines.
- Participated in Development Review Board meetings.
- Worked with Planning Department staff on UDO amendment for bicycle parking and alternative pedestrian plans, which were adopted by the City Council and County Commissioners. The amendment updates bicycle parking standards and adds use-based bicycle parking requirements.
- Reviewed and commented on the proposed design of several planned state and local projects, including the East End Connector, NC 751 widening near Woodcroft Parkway, bollards on the American Tobacco Trail, Club Boulevard curb extensions, NC 54 Corridor Study, and the proposed closing of Pickett Road.

*B. Communication and Outreach Activities.*

- Staffed a bicycle-pedestrian education booth at Earth Day in April, the Eno River Festival in July, and CenterFest in October.
- Organized valet bike parking at the Durham Earth Day Festival.
- Sponsored two successful Bike to Work Week events in Durham. An after-work event at Alivia's Durham Bistro and a breakfast event at Five Points in downtown Durham.
- Publicized the "Durham Bike-Ped" listserv to Durham residents. There are about 550 participants on the listserv.
- Distributed bike and pedestrian educational materials, including "Basic Bike Commuting" pamphlet, Bike Safety for Motorists brochure, bike law card and promotional bumper sticker.
- Maintained a Commission website – [www.bikewalkdurham.org](http://www.bikewalkdurham.org). The site includes information on BPAC members and meetings, as well as general information on biking and walking in Durham and the surrounding area.
- Prepared and presented an annual report.
- Provided a bike commuting "lunch and learn" for workers in downtown Durham.

*C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan Implementation.*

- The Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee produced several maps, viewable in Google Maps and Google Earth, showing the location of bicycle and pedestrian crashes in Durham, and held follow-up discussions with city staff and elected officials.
- The Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee prepared a useful digest of the Pedestrian Plan.
- The Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee catalogued pedestrian and bicycle interfaces with Duke University.
- The Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee worked on the application leading to the designation of Durham as a bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists.
- The Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee worked with city transportation staff on signage for the downtown trail.
- The Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee served on the steering committee and provided several reviews of the Durham Bike & Hike Map.
- The Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee reviewed the use of sharrow markings on selected road projects in 2010.
- Both committees participated in the NC 54 Corridor study.

## **VI. Focus Areas for 2011**

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission held its annual retreat on February 12, 2011. The retreat included a review of 2010 goals and accomplishments, and developed goals for 2011, which are attached.



## **VII. Closing**

The members of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission appreciate the opportunity to serve the City and County of Durham. We remain committed to our charge of assisting the elected boards in making Durham a better place to walk and bicycle. We hope that you will call upon us whenever our advice or expertise is needed.

Respectfully submitted,



Scott Carter  
Chair



*In 2010, Durham was designated a Bicycle Friendly Community at the Bronze Level. The League of American Bicyclists has recommended improvements to policies and programs so that Durham can continue to become more bicycle friendly and move to a higher designation. (Durham and BPAC also encourage cyclists to wear helmets.)*



*Bike Valet Parking at the 2010 Durham Earth Day Festival.*



*Bicycle promotion event and ride at N.C. Central University.*





*The first ciclovía in the Triangle, Bull City Open Streets, was held in May 2010.*



*A connection between South Street and the American Tobacco trail was completed by the Triangle Rails to Trails Conservancy in 2010*

## **Bicycle and Pedestrian Projects Completed in 2010**

The following bicycle and pedestrian projects were completed in 2010:

### **Bike Lanes**

- Anderson Street from Duke University Road to Chapel Hill Road (1.2 miles)
- Briggs Avenue from Person Street to Riddle Rd. (0.4 miles)
- Anderson Street from Campus Drive to Erwin Road (0.5 miles)
- W. Chapel Hill Street from NC 147 to Downtown Loop (0.4 miles)
- University Drive from Vickers Avenue to Duke Street (0.2 miles)
- E. Pettigrew Street from Driver Street to Duane Street (shoulders) (0.8 miles)
- Maxwell Avenue from Buchanan Boulevard to Campus Drive (0.3 miles)

### **Pedestrian Signals at Intersections**

- Ben Franklin Boulevard and William Penn Plaza
- Broad Street and Club Boulevard
- Broad Street, Guess Road, and Sunset Avenue
- Foster Street and Geer Street
- Main Street and Dillard Street
- Main Street, 15th Street, and Anderson Street
- NC 54 and Alston
- NC 55 and Linwood Avenue
- NC 55 and Riddle Road
- Ninth Street and Green Street
- North Pointe Drive and Home Depot
- Renaissance Parkway and Southpoint Mall
- Renaissance Parkway and the American Tobacco Trail

### **Sidewalks**

- Dearborn Drive from Old Oxford Highway to Ruth Street
- Hillandale Road from Cammie Street to Peppertree Street
- Hillsborough Street and Markham Avenue from US 15-501 Bypass to Broad Street
- University Drive from Garrett Road to Old Chapel Hill Road (near Academy Road)
- Main Street and Duke Street – West Village Streetscape
- Numerous sidewalk and curb cut ramp repairs (Contract SW 19 – ongoing)
- Curb ramp installations (Contract SW 21 – ongoing)
- Sidewalks built as part of new development

### **Trail Projects**

- R. Kelly Bryant Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge over NC 147
- Third Fork Creek Trail (substantially completed in 2010)
- Construction / repaving of North-South trail between Club Blvd. and Stadium Dr.
- Portion of New Hope Creek Greenway trail in Old Chapel Hill Rd Park
- Repaving of the American Tobacco Trail and Riddle Road Spur Trail
- Connector between South Street and the American Tobacco Trail



## **2011 BPAC Committee Goals**

### **Development Review Committee**

- Work with the Transportation and Planning Departments on the next round of UDO Text amendments
- Take the lead in review of the Comprehensive Plan update
- Work on guide for plan review
- Continue participation at DRB, review of site plans, and review of development plans

### **Bicycle Plan Implementation Committee**

- Work with City and MPO staff to acquire counts of bicyclists and pedestrian at key locations on streets and trails
- Monitor and support implementation of bike lane projects on Main Street, University Drive, and other state-maintained corridors
- Monitor and support implementation of bike lane projects on city-maintained streets, particularly those that are being resurfaced
- Create a report on the status of implementing the Durham Comprehensive Bicycle Transportation Plan

### **Pedestrian Plan Implementation Committee**

- Create a connection between the Transit Ambassadors (users) group and BPAC to assist in determining our recommendations for sidewalk construction priorities.
- Work with City staff to create a realistic sidewalk construction timetable based upon available funding.
- As funds become available, the City (and BPAC) should be able to explain to the public why certain sidewalk segments are selected for construction over others -- given the priorities published in the DurhamWalks! Plan. If BPAC is able to explain the reasons for each decision, it will assist public understanding and build “buy-in.”
- The BPAC will need to know at what point we should properly get involved or be informed of these decisions. For instance -- is our source of information Ed Venable, Mark Ahrendsen, Dale McKeel, Mike Woodard or a combination?
- BPAC should create and use actual pedestrian and bicyclist counts in our major transportation corridors.
- BPAC should recommend that the City repair existing sidewalks when the street is repaved as a standard policy or procedure.

- BPAC should understand the development regulations within the County's unincorporated areas – with regard to pedestrians and bicyclists – toward the goal of suggesting improvements to these regulations.
- BPAC should incorporate new data into the Pedestrian Plan as it becomes available with the goal of prioritizing new sidewalks where usage is the greatest. We think that this is the most economical way to keep the DurhamWalks! Plan dynamic as it is unlikely that an entirely new Plan will be created in the foreseeable future. For example, we recommend using transit data as a proxy for actual pedestrian counts until such time as pedestrian counting methods are devised and implemented.

#### Communications Committee

- Expand BTWW to Bike Month: support/promote more events
- Increase Public participation in local bike & ped issues
- Coordinate having Speakers at BPAC meetings
- Continue Website Maintenance
- Create Facebook Page to announce meetings, drive traffic to the web site



*Bike racks were added to some city-owned parking decks in 2010 at the request of downtown businesses and Downtown Durham Inc.*